

What is claimed is:

1. A method for analyzing an image comprising the steps of:

(a) dividing a reference image into:

(iv) one or more detection cells collectively comprising a detection zone in which a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image is expected to occur;

(v) one or more veto cells collectively comprising a veto zone in which any detection in said veto zone of a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image is used to disable any detection of a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image in said detection zone; and

(vi) zero or more ignore cells collectively comprising an ignore zone in which no computation is performed.

2. A method for analyzing an image comprising the steps of:

(a) using a reference image to position analysis cells in said image; and

(b) dividing said reference image into one or more types of analysis cells comprising:

(iv) one or more detection cells collectively comprising a detection zone in which a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image is expected to occur;

(v) one or more veto cells collectively comprising a veto zone in which any detection in said veto zone of a

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statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image is used to disable any detection of a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image in said detection zone; and

- (vi) zero or more ignore cells collectively comprising an ignore zone in which no computation is performed.

3. A method for analyzing an image comprising the steps of:

- (a) using a reference image to position analysis cells in said image; and

- (b) dividing said reference image into one or more zones, each of said zones comprising a collection of cells of the same type, said one or more zones comprising:

- (iv) a detection zone comprising one or more detection cells in which a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image is expected to occur;

- (v) a veto zone comprising one or more veto cells in which any detection in said veto zone of a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image is used to disable any detection of a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image in said detection zone; and

- (vi) an ignore zone comprising zero or more ignore cells in which no computation is performed.

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4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of digitizing said divided reference image into an array of pixels having a predetermined format.

5. The method of Claim 4 further comprising the step of identifying all of the pixels associated with each of said one or more detection cells other than pixels associated with an ignore cell contained within a detection cell.

6. The method of Claim 5 further comprising the step of calculating from the amplitude of all of said pixels identified with each of said one or more detection cells values for one or more features for each of said one or more detection cells.

7. The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step of comparing said values calculated for said one or more features for each of said one or more detection cells with a predetermined criteria for each of said one or more features and identifying each of said one or more detection cells in which said calculated value exceeds said predetermined criteria for each of said one or more features.

8. The method of Claim 7 further comprising the steps of determining the total number of said identified one or more detection cells, and responsive to said total number exceeding a predetermined threshold, setting a status of said detection zone to a first predetermined status.

9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising the step of responsive to said determined total number of said identified one or more detection cells not exceeding said predetermined threshold, setting said detection zone status to a second predetermined status.

10. The method of Claim 9 further comprising the step of responsive to said detection zone status having said second predetermined status, setting an image status to a first predetermined status.

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11. The method of Claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

identifying all of the pixels associated with each of said one or more veto cells other than pixels associated with an ignore cell contained within a veto cell;

calculating from the amplitude of all of said pixels identified with each of said one or more veto cells values for one or more features for each of said one or more veto cells;

comparing said values calculated for said one or more features for each of said one or more veto cells with a predetermined criteria for each of said one of more features and identifying each of said one or more veto cells in which said calculated value exceeds said predetermined criteria for each of said one or more features;

determining the total number of said identified one or more veto cells; and

responsive to said total number exceeding a predetermined threshold, setting a status of said veto zone to a predetermined status.

12. The method of Claim 4 further comprising the step of identifying all of the pixels associated with each of said one or more veto cells other than pixels associated with an ignore cell contained within a veto cell.

13. The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of calculating from the amplitude of all of said pixels identified with each of said one or more veto cells values for one or more features for each of said one or more veto cells.

14. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of comparing said values calculated for said one or more features for each of said one or more veto cells with a predetermined criteria for each of said one of

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more features and identifying each of said one or more veto cells in which said calculated value exceeds said predetermined criteria for each of said one or more features.

15. The method of Claim 14 further comprising the steps of determining the total number of said identified one or more veto cells, and responsive to said total number exceeding a predetermined threshold, setting a status of said veto zone to a first predetermined status.

16. The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of responsive to said determined total number of said identified one or more veto cells not exceeding said predetermined threshold, setting said veto zone status to a second predetermined status.

17. The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of responsive to said veto zone status having said second predetermined status setting an image status to a first predetermined status.

18. A method for analyzing an image comprising the steps of:

(a) dividing a reference image into one or more detection cells collectively comprising a detection zone in which a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image is expected to occur;

(b) digitizing said divided reference image into an array of pixels having a predetermined format;

(c) identifying all of the pixels associated with each of said one or more detection cells other than pixels associated with an ignore cell contained within a detection cell;

(d) calculating from the amplitude of all of said pixels identified with each of said one or more detection cells values for one or more features for each of said one or more detection cells;

(e) comparing said values calculated for said one

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or more features for each of said one or more detection cells with a predetermined criteria for each of said one or more features and identifying each of said one or more detection cells in which said calculated value exceeds said predetermined criteria for each of said one or more features;

(f) determining the total number of said identified one or more detection cells; and

(g) responsive to said total number exceeding a predetermined threshold, setting a zone status to a predetermined status.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein said step of dividing said reference image also divides said reference image into zero or more veto cells collectively comprising a veto zone in which any detection in said veto zone of a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image is used to disable any detection of a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said reference image in said detection zone.

20. The method of Claim 18 wherein said step of dividing said reference image also divides said reference image into zero or more of said ignore cells collectively comprising an ignore zone in which no computation is performed.